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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY

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SUBJECT

Defensive Preparations in Karelo-Finnish SSR

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. During 1948, a permanent fortified line was prepared between Viipuri and the Vuoksi River. This line, which is without entanglements, consists of concrete emplacements for automatic weapons and for smaller weapons, shelters, and antitank obstacles (moats) in the area where it is possible to employ vehicles.
2. Miscellaneous armed forces in the area include:

Approximately one infantry regiment at Paula.
 Approximately one infantry regiment at Tarmisuo.
 Approximately one mechanized regiment at Novimaa.
 Command of a regiment (or detachment) of the MVD frontier guards at Sorvali.

Island of Koivisto (Bjorkö)

3. The old Finnish coastal batteries of Saarenpaa are used by the Soviets, who have also carried out firing exercises.
4. During the fall of 1948, in the northern zone of the island, in the neighboring territory south of the village of Ingertila, was posted a battery of three coastal pieces of large caliber. There have been unidentified activities in the same zone.

Rybachi Peninsula

5. An unknown number of batteries were installed during the recent war in the zone of Cape Punnamki and along the shore to the south of the cape. Four batteries emplaced in rock situated about 60 m above sea level were prepared in 1948 along the west coast between Cape Vaitolahti and Kervanto.
6. The batteries are respectively connected to the small ports of Kervanto and Vaitolahti by means of telephone and trails. Two small vessels are stationed at Vaitolahti.
7. The lighthouse of Cape Vaitolahti, permanently occupied, is connected with the small port of Vaitolahti by means of telephone, a trail, and a radio and meteorological station.

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8. At the end of November 1948 the batteries were garrisoned.

Petsamo Area

9. Along the shore are three batteries.

- a. One is stationed at Numersati. It consists of four pieces of unknown caliber, which have a long barrel. They are located in two gun emplacements in rock (each gun emplacement holds two pieces) spaced approximately 50 m apart. The one to the west is placed 8-10 m above the level of the one to the east. The battery has a radio station with an antenna about 20 m high, and is connected with Liinahamari by telephone.
- b. A second battery is at Peuravuono. It has a radio station and is connected with the road to Lake Trifoma. The road, suitable for automobile traffic, cannot be travelled in the winter.
- c. A third battery, located at Suolavuono, is equipped with a radio station.

10. The three batteries are connected with each other by means of a trail. Telephone poles were placed along the section between Peuravuono and Suolavuono in December 1948. Supplies for the batteries come by way of the sea.

11. To the south, between the Norwegian frontier and Liinahamari, are two fortified lines. One is already finished. It is located along the following route: Liinahamari - northern bank of Small Nasykajarvi - Norwegian frontier. The other, now under construction, is farther south and runs from Lake Trifoma along the southern bank of Lake Saari and along the isthmus between the two lakes Nasyka, bordering the Norwegian frontier.

12. In December 1948 numerous explosions were heard in this zone, and large quantities of barbed wire and wood were seen being transported to the docks for the construction of chevaux-de-frise.

13. In the sector of Kuverneorinkoski, to the line already finished between Lake Salmi and the Norwegian frontier, another line is under construction farther towards the east. This last, running north-south, begins at Maaselantunturi heights, runs along the eastern bank of Lakes Maa and Tarden, and joins the Norwegian frontier.

14. A landing field is located at Luostari. Another is located at Nautsi.

15. This double line of defense is intended to block the path of an enemy approaching Petsamo or Murmansk from Kirkenes.

16. In the zone of Lake Kaskama, another line of defense, with an east-west direction, is capable of sustaining an attack from the north rather than the south.

17. During the first part of December 1948, six antitank pieces drawn by tractors coming from Liinahamari (column composed of 11 motor trucks with personnel and various materials) were emplaced between Lake Kaskama and the Norwegian frontier.

Zone of Salla

18. Constructions are reported along the road and railroad on Kolsanhari heights, about 15 km east of Kairala. These works, running in a north-south direction, follow, sometimes on the eastern and sometimes on the western slope, the ridge between Mount Nurmit (494 m) and Mount Kelsinkainen (453 m).

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